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EXAMINER

THAI, CANG G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/042,485

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Cang G. Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/12/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 16-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 16-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-9 and 16-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,343,313 (SALESKY ET AL).

As for Claim 1, SALESKY disclose a network conferencing system having an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation, a plurality of attendant electronic equipment operated by users attending a conference, and a conference management server connected with the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment so as to transmit and receive information to and from the output electronic equipment and the attendant electronic equipment via a communication network,

each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising:

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an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the conference management server {Column 3, Lines 12-17, wherein this reads over "the client computers might be personal computers, workstations, X-terminals, cable or satellite TV set-top boxes ("STBs"), personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), game playing machines, WebTV.TM.s, network computers ("NCs"), Infopads, visual telephones, and other existing or as yet undeveloped input and/or output devices"};

a presentation unit for presenting the contents of a presentation by using the output electronic equipment {Column 3, Lines 12-17, wherein this reads over "the client computers might be personal computers, workstations, X-terminals, cable or satellite TV set-top boxes ("STBs"), personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), game playing machines, WebTV.TM.s, network computers ("NCs"), Infopads, visual telephones, and other existing or as yet undeveloped input and/or output devices"};

a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment {Column 3, Lines 12-17, wherein this reads over "the client computers might be personal computers, workstations, X-terminals, cable or satellite TV set-top boxes ("STBs"), personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), game playing machines, WebTV.TM.s, network computers ("NCs"), Infopads, visual telephones, and other existing or as yet undeveloped input and/or output devices"};

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an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, at a conference {Column 2, Lines 8-10, wherein this reads over "At the time of setup, one or more password character strings ("keys") can be specified for the conference"};

an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network {Column 3, Lines 43-47, wherein this reads over "multi-point, multi-speed transport over a computer network for data streams other than the visual conference shared images described above, including but not limited to audio, video, shared paint and drawing spaces, text chat"};

a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment with their attendance authenticated by the authentication unit and the electronic equipment managed by the equipment management unit {Column 1, Lines 59-62, wherein this reads over "A pointer icon for each conferee can be displayed on the screen, and the conferee is able to modify the location of his or her pointer, even if the conferee is not one who can modify the shared display itself"}; and

a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit {Column 16, Lines 47-50, wherein this reads over "The shared conference image, text boxes, messages, control buttons and menus, and other graphical elements may be grouped in a single window or split among several windows on the client's display"};

wherein one of the authority to be a presenter terminal, the authority to be a chairman terminal, and the authority to be an attendant terminal, is acquired by each

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attendant electronic equipment {Column 9, Lines 44-47, wherein this reads over "Server 14 can be a server operated by the presenter (who would then have full control over the server's resources), or it can be owned or operated by an unrelated third party or even an attendee who never presents"}.

As for Claim 2, which has the same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 3, which has same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 4, which has same limitation as in Claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 1.

As for Claim 5, SALESKY discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the authentication unit prepares attendance permission information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment permitted to attend the conference, and attendance non-permission information which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment not permitted to attend the conference {Column 2, Lines 43-49, wherein this reads over "The position of a pointer icon on a conferee's view of the captured region and an icon specified by the conferee might be communicated to each of the other attendee and presenter clients, so that each of the participants can see what each conferee is pointing at should a conferee choose to point to an element of the shared captured region"}.

As for Claim 6, SALESKY discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein conference attendance requests including the personal information to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are inputted to the information input/output unit via the conference management server {Column 30, Lines 24-28, wherein this reads over "This information was created when the person who set up the meeting requested that the meeting be scheduled, gave descriptive information for the meeting, specified the keys and privileges, and provided other administrative information"}, and

the authentication unit prepares attendance permission information for changing the display mode of the icon displays of the other electronic equipment when the attendance is permitted in accordance with the operation by the user, in response to the conference attendance requests inputted to the information input/output unit {Column 2, Lines 15-21, wherein this reads over "These privileges include but are not are not limited to the following: entering the conference, being a presenter, having a pointer, seeing the icons or other identifying information of other attendees, hiding or sharing one's own icon or identifying information, changing descriptive information such as the name, time, and purpose of the conference, changing keys, and changing others' privileges"}.

As for Claim 7, SALESKY discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the display unit includes icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing in the communication network, in a first screen area, and includes icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing outside the

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communication network, in a second screen area {Column 2, Lines 43-49, wherein this reads over "The position of a pointer icon on a conferee's view of the captured region and an icon specified by the conferee might be communicated to each of the other attendee and presenter clients, so that each of the participants can see what each conferee is pointing at should a conferee choose to point to an element of the shared captured region"}.

As for Claim 8, which has same limitation as in Claim 7, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 7.

As for Claim 9, SALESKY discloses the network conference system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein conference leaving requests to request leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are input to the information input/output function via the conference management server, and the display unit changes the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipment which output the conference leaving requests, in response to the conference leaving requests input to the information input/output unit {Column 15, Lines 15-19, wherein this reads over "The presenter can "go off-air," i.e., suspend or pause the image capturing process and can "go on-air," i.e., resume the presentation at will. The network connections can be maintained during the off-air period, but no changes will be sent to the server"}.

As for Claim 16, which has same limitation as in Claim 2, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 2.

As for Claim 17, which has same limitation as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 18, SALESKY discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means outputs the prepared attendant equipment display information to the attendant electronic equipment connected with the communication network {Column 18, Lines 36-39, wherein this reads over “the server can move a client connection from class to class in response to changing network characteristics so as to keep the clients in a class closely matched”}.

As for Claim 19, which has same limitation as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 20, SALESKY discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the attendance management means is supplied with conference attendance requests including the personal data to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment, and prepares attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal in accordance with the conference attendance requests {Column 26, Lines 24-28, wherein this reads over “If attendee client 18(a) issues a command or request to server 14(a), represented by the dotted arrow, the message will be responded to by server 14(a), or passed to server 14(b), and handled there or in turn passed to server 14(a), with these two paths also shown with dotted arrows”}.

As for Claim 21, SALESKY discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing in the communication network, in a first screen area, and including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area {Column 1, Lines 55-62, wherein this reads over "A pointer icon for each conferee can be displayed on the screen, and the conferee is able to modify the location of his or her pointer, even if the conferee is not one who can modify the shared display itself"}.

As for Claim 22, SALESKY discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information for displaying location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipment in the communication network, in the first screen area, and displaying location attribute information indicating the presence of each of the electronic equipment outside the communication network, in the second screen area {Column 1, Lines 55-62, wherein this reads over "A pointer icon for each conferee can be displayed on the screen, and the conferee is able to modify the location of his or her pointer, even if the conferee is not one who can modify the shared display itself"}.

As for Claim 23, SALESKY discloses the conference management server as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the attendance management means prepares attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays related to

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the other attendant electronic equipment which output conference leaving requests in response to input of the conference leaving requests to request for leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment {Column 15, Lines 15-19, wherein this reads over "The presenter can "go off-air," i.e., suspend or pause the image capturing process and can "go on-air," i.e., resume the presentation at will. The network connections can be maintained during the off-air period, but no changes will be sent to the server"}.

As for Claim 24, SALESKY discloses an attendance authentication method for a conference management server connected with an output electronic equipment for presenting the contents of presentation and a plurality of attendant electronic equipment via a communication network, each of the attendant electronic equipment comprising an information input/output unit for inputting and outputting information from and to the other attendant electronic equipment and the output electronic equipment via the communication network, a presentation unit for presenting the contents of the presentation by using the output electronic equipment, a presentation contents browsing unit for browsing the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit of the other attendant electronic equipment using the output electronic equipment, an authentication unit for carrying out authentication of attendance of the other attendant electronic equipment at a conference, an equipment management unit for managing the state of each electronic equipment connected to the communication network, a display unit for displaying, as icons, the other attendant electronic equipment with their attendance authenticated by the authentication function and electronic equipment

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managed by the equipment management unit, and a proceedings control unit for controlling preparation of the proceedings by using the contents of the presentation presented by the presentation unit, the method comprising the steps of:

inputting a conference attendance request including personal data related to the attendant electronic equipment from the attendant electronic equipment {Column 3, Lines 12-17, wherein this reads over "the client computers might be personal computers, workstations, X-terminals, cable or satellite TV set-top boxes ("STBs"), personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), game playing machines, WebTV.TM.s, network computers ("NCs"), Infopads, visual telephones, and other existing or as yet undeveloped input and/or output devices"};

outputting the conference attendance request to the other attendant electronic equipment {Column 3, Lines 12-17, wherein this reads over "the client computers might be personal computers, workstations, X-terminals, cable or satellite TV set-top boxes ("STBs"), personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), game playing machines, WebTV.TM.s, network computers ("NCs"), Infopads, visual telephones, and other existing or as yet undeveloped input and/or output devices"};

inputting the result of attendance authentication in accordance with the conference attendance request {Column 3, Lines 12-17, wherein this reads over "the client computers might be personal computers, workstations, X-terminals, cable or satellite TV set-top boxes ("STBs"), personal digital assistants ("PDAs"), game playing machines, WebTV.TM.s, network computers ("NCs"), Infopads, visual telephones, and other existing or as yet undeveloped input and/or output devices"};

preparing an attendance information file for managing the plurality of attendant electronic equipment attending a conference by using the personal data and the result of attendance authentication {Column 2, Lines 8-10, wherein this reads over "At the time of setup, one or more password character strings ("keys") can be specified for the conference"}; and

preparing attendant equipment display information for displaying, as an icon, the personal data of each attendant electronic equipment managed as the attendance information file in accordance with the result of attendance authentication {Column 1, Lines 59-62, wherein this reads over "A pointer icon for each conferee can be displayed on the screen, and the conferee is able to modify the location of his or her pointer, even if the conferee is not one who can modify the shared display itself"}.

As for Claim 25, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein attendance permission information or attendance non-permission information from the attendant electronic equipment having the authority as a chairman terminal having the information input/output unit, the authentication function, the equipment management unit, the display unit and the proceedings control unit is inputted {Column 2, Lines 43-49, wherein this reads over "The position of a pointer icon on a conferee's view of the captured region and an icon specified by the conferee might be communicated to each of the other attendee and presenter clients, so that each of the participants can see what each conferee is pointing at should a conferee choose to point to an element of the shared captured region"}; and

the contents of the attendance information file are updated {Column 8, Lines 11-12, wherein this reads over "Attendee client 18 uses whatever change information it receives to update its screen display of the shared image"}.

As for Claim 26, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the prepared attendant equipment display information is outputted to the attendant electronic equipment connected with the communication network {Column 3, Lines 43-47, wherein this reads over "multi-point, multi-speed transport over a computer network for data streams other than the visual conference shared images described above, including but not limited to audio, video, shared paint and drawing spaces, text chat"}.

As for Claim 27, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein attendant equipment display information which enables selection of icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal and which makes it impossible to select icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment not permitted to attend the conference on the basis of the attendance non-permission information is prepared {Column 2, Lines 43-49, wherein this reads over "The position of a pointer icon on a conferee's view of the captured region and an icon specified by the conferee might be communicated to each of the other attendee and presenter clients, so that each of the participants can see what each conferee is pointing at should a conferee choose to point to an element of the shared captured region"}.

As for Claim 28, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein conference attendance requests including the personal data to request for attendance at the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are inputted {Column 26, Lines 24-28, wherein this reads over "If attendee client 18(a) issues a command or request to server 14(a), represented by the dotted arrow, the message will be responded to by server 14(c) or passed to server 14(b), and handled there or in turn passed to server 14(a), with these two paths also shown with dotted arrows"}, and

attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays is prepared on the basis of the attendance permission information from the chairman terminal in accordance with the conference attendance requests {Column 26, Lines 24-28, wherein this reads over "If attendee client 18(a) issues a command or request to server 14(a), represented by the dotted arrow, the message will be responded to by server 14(c) or passed to server 14(b), and handled there or in turn passed to server 14(a), with these two paths also shown with dotted arrows"}.

As for Claim 29, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein attendant equipment display information including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing within the communication network, in a first screen area, and including icon displays of the other attendant electronic equipment existing outside the communication network, in a second screen area, is prepared {Column 1, Lines 55-62, wherein this reads over "A pointer icon for each conferee can be displayed on the screen, and the conferee is able to modify the

location of his or her pointer, even if the conferee is not one who can modify the shared display itself”}.

As for Claim 30, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein attendant equipment display information for displaying location attribute information indicating the presence within the communication network, in the first screen area, and displaying location attribute information indicating the presence outside the communication network, in the second screen area, is prepared {Column 1, Lines 55-62, wherein this reads over “A pointer icon for each conferee can be displayed on the screen, and the conferee is able to modify the location of his or her pointer, even if the conferee is not one who can modify the shared display itself”}.

As for Claim 31, SALESKY discloses the attendance authentication method as claimed in claim 24, wherein conference leaving requests to request leaving the conference from the other attendant electronic equipment are input {Column 15, Lines 15-19, wherein this reads over “The presenter can “go off-air,” i.e., suspend or pause the image capturing process and can “go on-air,” i.e., resume the presentation at will. The network connections can be maintained during the off-air period, but no changes will be sent to the server”}, and

attendant equipment display information for changing the display mode of icon displays related to the other attendant electronic equipment which output conference leaving requests is prepared {Column 15, Lines 15-19, wherein this reads over “The presenter can “go off-air,” i.e., suspend or pause the image capturing process and can

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"go on-air," i.e., resume the presentation at will. The network connections can be maintained during the off-air period, but no changes will be sent to the server"}.

As for Claim 32, which has same limitation as in Claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 3.

As for Claim 33, which has same limitation as in Claim 4, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 4.

As for Claim 34, SALESKY discloses the network conferencing system as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the presentation unit transfers only the data related to the contents of the presentation to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment {Column 10, Lines 19-24, wherein this reads over "The conference server acts as a software-controlled switch that connects the presenter client with the attendee clients, taking into account that the speed of information transfer from the presenter client can change and the speed of transfer to the attendee clients can change and be simultaneously different for different attendees"}.

As for Claim 35, which has same limitations as in Claims 33 and 34, respectively, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claims 33 and 34, respectively.

As for Claim 36, SALESKY discloses the presentation method as claimed in Claim 35, wherein only the data related to the contents of the presentation is transferred to the output electronic equipment or the attendant electronic equipment {Column 10, Lines 19-24, wherein this reads over "The conference server acts as a software-controlled switch that connects the presenter client with the attendee clients, taking into

account that the speed of information transfer from the presenter client can change and the speed of transfer to the attendee clients can change and be simultaneously different for different attendees"}.

As for Claim 37, which has same element as in Claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in Claim 3.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

I. U.S. Patent:

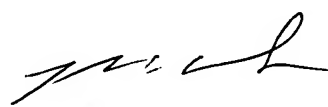
- 1) U.S. Patent No. 6,282,573 (DARAGO ET AL) is cited to teach computer architecture for managing courseware in a shared use operating environment,
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 5,974,446 (SONNENREICH ET AL) is cited to teach Internet based distance learning system for communicating between server and clients wherein clients communicate with each other or with teacher using different communication techniques via common user interface,
- 3) U.S. Patent No. 6,336,813 (SIEFERT) is cited to teach computer-assisted education using video conferencing, and
- 4) U.S. Patent No. 5,909,589 (PARKER ET AL) is cited to teach Internet based training.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (571) 272-6499. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT
03/06/2006



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600